United Nations S/PRST/2009/8

Security Council

Distr.: General
21 April 2009

Original: English

Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 6108th meeting of the Security Council, held on 21 April 2009, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "Maintenance of international peace and security: mediation and settlement of disputes", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council recalls the statement of its President (S/PRST/2008/36) of 23 September 2008 and takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on Enhancing Mediation and Its Support Activities (S/2009/189), as well as the recommendations contained therein.

"The Security Council, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and as the organ with the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, underscores its intention to remain engaged in all stages of the conflict cycle, including in support of mediation, and expresses its readiness to explore further ways and means to reinforce the promotion of mediation as an important means for the pacific settlement of disputes, wherever possible before they evolve into violence.

"The Security Council recognizes the importance of mediation, to be launched at the earliest possible phases of conflicts, as well as in the implementation phases of signed peace agreements and underlines the need to design mediation processes that address the root causes of conflicts and contribute to peacebuilding, in order to ensure sustainable peace.

"The Security Council stresses that the principal responsibility for the peaceful settlement of disputes rests with the parties to the conflict and that it is only through their full participation and genuine commitment to resolve the conflict including its underlying causes, that peace can be achieved and sustained. In this regard, the Council underlines the importance of building national and local capacity for mediation.

"The Security Council emphasizes the importance of the actions undertaken by the United Nations Secretary-General, in promoting mediation and in the pacific settlement of disputes, and welcomes the continued efforts by the Department of Political Affairs, in particular through the Mediation Support Unit to respond to emerging and existing crises. It underscores that mediation support efforts should be responsive to the demands of fast-moving peace processes.

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"The Security Council recalls the important contribution of Member States, regional and subregional organizations, civil society and other stakeholders to the pacific settlement of disputes. The Council welcomes the efforts made by regional and subregional organizations to enhance their mediation role, and appreciates the efforts of the Secretary-General to continue to assist them in this regard.

"The Security Council urges the Secretariat to work with all partners to ensure the availability of well-trained, experienced and geographically diverse mediation experts at all levels to ensure the timely and the highest quality support to mediation efforts and it urges those possessing cadres of mediation experts to cooperate with the Secretariat in this endeavour.

"The Security Council further requests the Secretary-General to work in partnership with Member States, regional and subregional organizations and other relevant partners in a coordinated and mutually complementary manner when cooperating in a mediation process.

"The Security Council notes with concern the very low numbers of women in formal roles in mediation processes, and stresses the need to ensure that women are appropriately appointed at decision-making levels, as high-level mediators, and within the composition of the mediators' teams in line with resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008). It reiterates its call to the Secretary-General and the heads of regional and subregional organizations to take the appropriate measures to that end.

"The Security Council requests the Secretary-General to keep it informed of the action undertaken by him in promoting and supporting mediation and pacific settlement of disputes, ensuring coherence with the ongoing efforts to strengthen peacebuilding and peacekeeping."

United Nations S/PRST/2009/9

Security Council

Distr.: General
29 April 2009

Original: English

Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 6114th meeting of the Security Council, held on 29 April 2009, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "Children and armed conflict", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council takes note with appreciation of the 8th report of the Secretary-General (S/2009/158) on children and armed conflict and of the positive developments referred to in the report, and notes the continuing challenges in the implementation of its resolution 1612 (2005) reflected therein.

"The Security Council reaffirms its commitment to address the widespread impact of armed conflict on children, and its determination to ensure respect for, and the implementation of, its resolution 1612 (2005) and all its previous resolutions on children and armed conflict, as well as respect for other applicable international law related to the protection of children affected by armed conflict.

"The Security Council stresses, in this regard, the importance of adopting a broad strategy of conflict prevention, which addresses the root causes of armed conflict in a comprehensive manner in order to enhance the protection of children on a long-term basis, including by promoting sustainable development, poverty eradication, national reconciliation, good governance, democracy, the rule of law and respect for and protection of human rights.

"The Security Council acknowledges that the implementation of its resolution 1612 (2005) in situations listed in the annexes to the Secretary-General's report (S/2009/158) has generated progress and invites the Secretary General, where applicable, to strengthen the efforts to bring the monitoring and reporting mechanism to its full capacity in order to allow for prompt advocacy and effective response to all violations and abuses committed against children. In this regard, the Council reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to provide additional administrative support to its Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict.

"The Security Council reiterates its equally strong condemnation of the continuing recruitment and use of children in armed conflict in violation of applicable international law, killing and maiming of children, rape and other sexual violence, abductions, denial of humanitarian access to children and

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attacks against schools and hospitals by parties to armed conflict. The Council condemns all other violations of international law, including international humanitarian law, human rights law and refugee law, committed against children in situations of armed conflict. The Council demands that all relevant parties immediately put an end to such practices and take special measures to protect children.

"The Security Council expresses deep concern that civilians, in particular children, continue to account for a considerable number of casualties resulting from killing and maiming in armed conflicts, including as a result of deliberate targeting, indiscriminate and excessive use of force, indiscriminate use of landmines and cluster munitions and use of children as human shields.

"The Security Council further expresses deep concern with the high incidence and appalling levels of brutality of rape and other forms of sexual violence against children, girls and boys, committed in the context of and associated with armed conflict, including the use or commission of rape and other forms of sexual violence in some situations as a tactic of war.

"The Security Council recognizes the importance of including in the annexes to the Secretary-General's reports on Children and armed conflict those parties to armed conflict that commit acts of killing and maiming of children that are prohibited under applicable international law or acts of rape and other sexual violence against children that are prohibited under applicable international law, in situations of armed conflict, and expresses its intention to continue its consideration of this issue, in order to take action within three months of this date.

"The Security Council reiterates its call on parties to armed conflict listed in the annexes of the Secretary General's report (S/2009/158) that have not already done so to prepare and implement, without further delay, concrete time-bound action plans to halt recruitment and use of children in violation of applicable international law, and to address all other violations and abuses committed against children and undertake specific commitments and measures in this regard, in close cooperation with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the United Nations country-level task forces on monitoring and reporting.

"The Security Council expresses its concern with situations where insufficient or no progress has been made by parties listed in the annexes to the Secretary-General's reports in halting recruitment and use of children in violation of applicable international law, including through the preparation and implementation of concrete time-bound action plans, and reiterates its determination to ensure respect for its resolutions on children and armed conflict, making use of all the tools provided in its resolution 1612 (2005), including action as appropriate in accordance with paragraph 9 of its resolution 1612 (2005).

"The Security Council strongly emphasizes the need for concerned Member States to take decisive and immediate action against persistent perpetrators of violations against children, and to bring to justice those responsible for the recruitment and use of children in violation of applicable international law and other violations against children through national justice

systems and, where applicable, international justice mechanisms and mixed criminal courts and tribunals, with a view to ending impunity for those committing crimes against children.

"The Security Council reiterates the primary responsibility of States in providing effective protection and relief to all children affected by armed conflicts, and calls upon them to comply with their obligations under applicable international law, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto and encourages States to strengthen national measures for the prevention of violations against children in armed conflict, including recruitment and use of children and their use in hostilities in violation of applicable international law, inter alia, by enacting legislation that explicitly prohibits such recruitment and use as well as other violations and urges States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding this Convention and its Optional Protocols.

"The Security Council reiterates the importance of the full, safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel and goods and the delivery of humanitarian assistance to all children affected by armed conflict, and stresses the importance for all, within the framework of humanitarian assistance, of upholding and respecting the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence.

"The Security Council remains concerned with the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons and its effect on and their use by children in armed conflict.

"The Security Council welcomes the sustained engagement of its Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict and requests it to adopt, with the administrative support of the Secretariat, timely conclusions and recommendations in line with resolution 1612 (2005). The Council encourages its Working Group to continue its review process, to enhance its ability to follow up the implementation of its recommendations and the development and implementation of action plans to halt recruitment and use of children, and to consider and react in a timely manner to information on situations of children and armed conflict, in collaboration with the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and UNICEF. It also invites its Working Group to enhance its communication with relevant Security Council Sanctions Committees, including by forwarding pertinent information.

"The Security Council commends the work carried out by the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict, Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy, and emphasizes the importance of her country visits in promoting collaboration between the United Nations and governments and enhancing dialogue with parties to armed conflict.

"The Security Council also commends the work carried out by UNICEF as well as other relevant United Nations agencies, funds, programmes within their respective mandates, the Child Protection Advisers of United Nations peacekeeping, peacebuilding and political missions in cooperation with national Governments and relevant civil society actors.

"The Security Council encourages the efforts of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in mainstreaming child protection into all

peacekeeping missions, in close collaboration with the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict and UNICEF; and encourages the deployment of Child Protection Advisers to peacekeeping operations, as well as into relevant peacebuilding and political missions.

"The Security Council invites the Peacebuilding Commission to continue to promote child protection in post-conflict situations under its consideration.

"Given the regional dimension of some conflicts, the Security Council encourages Member States, United Nations peacekeeping, peacebuilding and political missions and United Nations Country Teams to establish appropriate strategies and coordination mechanisms for information exchange and cooperation on cross-border child protection concerns such as recruitment, release and reintegration of children.

"The Security Council recognizes the important role of education in armed conflict areas, including as a means to achieve the goal of halting and preventing recruitment and re-recruitment of children in violation of applicable international law, and calls upon all parties concerned to continue to ensure that all children associated with armed forces and groups systematically have access to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes where they can benefit, inter alia, from education.

"The Security Council also urges parties to armed conflict to refrain from actions that impede children's access to education, in particular attacks or threats of attack on school children or teachers as such, the use of schools for military operations, and attacks on schools that are prohibited by applicable international law.

"The Security Council requests the Secretary-General to submit his next report by May 2010 on the implementation of its resolutions on children and armed conflict."

United Nations S/PRST/2009/10

Security Council

Distr.: General
30 April 2009

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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 6115th meeting of the Security Council, held on 30 April 2009, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Cyprus", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council commends the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders for the political leadership they have shown and warmly welcomes the progress made so far in the fully-fledged negotiations, and the leaders' joint statements.

"The Security Council strongly urges the leaders to increase the momentum in the negotiations to ensure the full exploitation of this opportunity to reach a comprehensive settlement based on a bicommunal, bizonal federation with political equality, as set out in the relevant Security Council resolutions.

"The Security Council emphasizes the importance of all parties engaging fully, flexibly and constructively and looks forward to decisive progress in the negotiations in the near future.

"The Security Council recognizes that a solution requires the support of both sides and will require the approval of both communities in separate and simultaneous referenda. In this context, the Security Council fully supports the Secretary-General's Good Offices Mission and encourages the Secretary-General's Special Adviser to continue to offer the leaders any support they need to achieve a settlement.

"The Security Council reiterates its full support for the process and underlines the benefits that reunification will bring to the island."

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United Nations S/PRST/2009/11

Security Council

Distr.: General
5 May 2009

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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 6118th meeting of the Security Council, held on 5 May 2009, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "Peace and security in Africa", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council expresses its deep concern over the resurgence of unconstitutional changes of government in a few African countries. The Security Council expresses its concern at the possible violence that may accompany such events as well as the negative impact on economic and social welfare of the people and the development of affected countries. The Security Council stresses the importance of expeditiously restoring constitutional order including through open and transparent elections.

"The Security Council reiterates its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and recalls that cooperation with regional and sub-regional organizations, consistent with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, can improve collective security.

"The Security Council welcomes the continuing important efforts of the African Union and sub-regional organizations, consistent with Security Council resolutions and decisions, to settle conflicts, promote human rights, democracy, rule of law, and constitutional order in Africa.

"The Security Council also welcomes the decision of the twelfth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union held on February 1-3, 2009 which expressed the African Union's concern and condemnation of the resurgence of coups d'état that it concluded not only constitute a dangerous political downturn and serious setback to the democratic processes, but could also pose a threat to peace, security and stability of the Continent.

"The Security Council further welcomes preventive measures undertaken by the African Union and sub-regional organizations against unconstitutional changes of government."

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United Nations S/PRST/2009/12

Security Council

Distr.: General
5 May 2009

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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 6119th meeting of the Security Council, held on 5 May 2009, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "Letter dated 22 November 2006 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2006/920)", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council expresses its concern about the current political crisis in Nepal, and underscores the urgent need for the Government of Nepal and all political parties to continue to work together in the spirit of compromise. The Council notes the steps taken so far in the implementation of the peace process and recalls its full support for that process.

"The Security Council reaffirms its full support for the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) and recalls resolution 1864 (2009) calling upon the Government of Nepal to continue to take the necessary decisions to create conditions conducive to completion of UNMIN's activities by the end of the current mandate, including through the work of the Special and Technical committees for supervision, integration and rehabilitation of Maoist army combatants.

"The Security Council recalls the Government of Nepal's commitment to discharge minors from the cantonment sites and calls upon the Government of Nepal to implement this commitment in accordance with international law."

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United Nations S/PRST/2009/13

Security Council

Distr.: General
8 May 2009

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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 6122nd meeting of the Security Council, held on 8 May 2009, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Chad, the Central African Republic and the subregion", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council condemns the renewed military incursions in eastern Chad of Chadian armed groups, coming from outside.

"The Security Council stresses that any attempt at destabilization of Chad by force is unacceptable. It recalls the terms of the declarations of its President dated of 4 February 2008 (S/PRST/2008/3) and 16 June 2008 (S/PRST/2008/22). It reiterates its commitment to the sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity and political independence of Chad. It demands that rebel armed groups cease violence immediately and calls on all parties to reengage in dialogue in the framework of the Sirte agreement of 25 October 2007.

"The Security Council calls on Sudan and Chad to respect and fully implement their mutual commitments, in particular in the Doha Agreement of 3 May 2009 and the Dakar Agreement of 13 March 2008, and to engage constructively with the Dakar contact group and the good offices of Libya and Qatar, to normalize their relations, cooperate to put an end to cross-border activities of armed groups and strengthen actions to combat illicit arms trafficking in the region, including through the establishment of an effective joint border monitoring. The Council expresses its concern at the external support received by Chadian armed groups, as reported by the Secretary-General.

"The Security Council expresses deep concern at the direct threat the activity of armed groups poses for the safety of the civilian population and the conduct of humanitarian operations. It reiterates its full support for the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT), which is mandated to contribute to protect vulnerable civilians including refugees and internally displaced persons, to protect United Nations and associated personnel and to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

"The Security Council calls on all parties to abide by their obligations under international humanitarian law, in particular to respect the security of civilians, including women and children, humanitarian workers and United Nations personnel.

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"The Security Council encourages the Chadian authorities in promoting political dialogue, with respect for the constitutional framework, as initiated in the Agreement of 13 August 2007."